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This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Council without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

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**Act No. 182 (H.696). Health; health insurance; individual mandate**

**An act relating to establishing a State individual mandate**

This act establishes an individual mandate for Vermont residents to maintain minimum essential health insurance coverage beginning on January 1, 2020. It expresses legislative intent to enforce the individual mandate through a financial penalty or other enforcement mechanism to be enacted by the General Assembly during the 2019 legislative session. It creates the Individual Mandate Working Group to develop recommendations regarding administration and enforcement of the individual mandate, with the recommendations due to the legislative committees of jurisdiction by November 1, 2018. The act also requires the Department of Vermont Health Access and others to engage in outreach and education efforts before and during the open enrollment periods for health insurance coverage for the 2019 and 2020 plan years regarding the importance of health insurance coverage and Vermonters' responsibilities under the individual mandate.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 28, 2018